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Remarks/Argument

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 4-24 are objected to for not being in conformance with the restriction Requirement that was sent on September 1, 2009. Claim 19 is objected to for informalities. Claim 23 is objected to for having the claimed chemical structures in a table rather than in sentence form. Claims 1-22 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as lacking enablement. Claims 1, 4-22, and 24 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph for being indefinite.

Claim 1 has been canceled, so that Claim 2 is now the first claim. The claims are now closely directed to the claimed compounds, thereby overcoming the rejections for lack of enablement. The informalities have been corrected or removed by the foregoing amendments.

Claim 2 was amended by incorporating the definition of the dashed line from Claim 1 and incorporating the definitions that are now in Claim 2 from Claims 5, 9, 12, 14, 15, and 18. An additional selection for R¹ was added to the definition of R¹ in Claim 2 based on the structure of Example 15, where R¹ is 1-benzoyloxyethyl. Claim 23 was canceled and rewritten as new Claim 28, which is now written as a sentence rather than a table.

The amended Claims address all of the issues raised by the Examiner. This response is believed to be a complete response to the current Office Action. The claims are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

This response is timely filed, and no extension fee is due. If any fee is required to file this amendment, the fee may be charged to Merck Deposit Account No.: 13-2755

If the Examiner wishes to discuss any matter regarding this Response, he is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

By: LM > Z

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